

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PLO, JO
SUBJECT: WEST BANK FUNDS AND PLO

REF: AMMAN 4026

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH MININFO ABU ODEH JULY 19,
WE WERE GIVEN MORE BACKGROUND ON RECENT ISRAELI MESSAGES
FORBIDDING WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES FROM RECEIVING FUNDS
FROM ABROAD WITHOUT JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT APPROVAL.
ACCORDING TO ABU ODEH, SEVERAL MONTHS AGO HE RECEIVED A
MESSAGE VIA A WEST BANK ARAB FROM AN ISRAELI OFFICIAL IN
CHARGE OF WEST BANK MUNICIPALITIES. AMONG OTHER POINTS,
MESSAGE ASSURED ABU ODEH THAT PETITION OF LIKUD GOVERNMENT
WITH REGARD TO WEST BANK JORDANIAN RELATIONS WOULD BE
HELPFUL TO KING HUSSEIN. IN ORDER TO PREVENT WEST BANK
MAYORS FROM BEING INFLUENCED BY OTHERS OVER WHOM GOJ
HAD NO CONTROL, THEY WOULD BE REQUIRED HENCEFORTH TO
HAVE FORMAL APPROVAL FROM GOJ BEFORE ISRAELIS WOULD
PERMIT ENTRANCE OF FUNDS FOR USE BY MUNICIPALITIES.
ISRAELIS ALSO WANTED TO KNOW IDENTITY OF GOJ'S
SUPPORTERS IN WEST BANK (THEY HAD HAD TROUBLE
LOCATING THEM) IMPLYING HELP WAS INTENDED.

2. ABU ODEH SAID HE SENT WORD OF THIS THROUGH

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PRIME MINISTER TO KING, BUT APPARENTLY KING DID
NOT HEAR OF IT UNTIL SECOND MESSAGE, ASKING IF
HE HAD RECEIVED FIRST, CAME TO ABU ODEH FROM
PROFESSOR MILLSON, ARAB AFFAIRS ADVISOR TO ISRAELI
WEST BANK MILITARY GOVERNOR. ABU ODEH SAID
KING HUSSEIN AND OTHERS WHO ARE AWARE OF THIS
EXCHANGE TAKE SKEPTICAL VIEW OF ISRAELI CLAIM

THAT THEY SEEKING TO HELP JORDAN. NONETHELESS,
ISRAELIS IN POSITION TO FORCE COMPLIANCE ON FUNDS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION CONCERNING SUPPORT

FOR PLO ON WEST BANK, ABU ODEH SAID THAT WHILE WEST BANK NOTABLES MAY NOW OPENLY AFFIRM THEIR BACKING FOR PLO, SUCH SUPPORT IS HIGHLY PRAGMATIC AND DOES NOT REFLECT ANY DEEP IDEOLOGICAL COMMITMENT. EVEN THOSE WEST BANKERS WHO PROFESS SUPPORT FOR PLO DO NOT WANT ARAFAT AS LEADER OF INDEPENDENT STATE. BUT, AS RESULT RABAT DECISION AND BACKING OF REST OF ARABS FOR PLO, WEST BANKERS FEEL THEIR ONLY HOPE TO BE FREE OF ISRAELIS LIES THROUGH PLO. WEST BANK NOTABLES DO NOT WANT TO PUT THEMSELVES ON THE LINE AND ARE GRATEFUL THAT SOMEONE ELSE SUCH AS PLO IS TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBTAINING THEIR INDEPENDENCE; HOWEVER, ABU ODEH CONCLUDED, AS SITUATION DEVELOPS AND OTHER ARABS AS WELL AS WEST BANKERS PERCEIVE PLO UNABLE TO DELIVER AND INDEED HAS BECOME OBSTACLE TO THEIR HOPES, SUPPORT FOR PLO WILL OPENLY WANE.

PICKERING

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